

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub 1.  
a3 ( An information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:  
forming a specific user's own specific user model based on  
the general user selection taste data consisting of classification  
items and information contents on the basis of the general user  
group classified according to an user attribute and/or the state  
of information utilization, and based on the basic information  
selection taste data of said specific user;

registering said specific user model formed for each plural  
users so as to correspond to respective users; and

retrieving the information suiting one or plural specific  
user model(s) based on said one or plural specific user model(s)  
among said plurality of specific user models.

2. The information retrieval method according to claim 1,  
comprising the steps of

forming a group user model on the basis of said plurality of  
specific user models and retrieving said information based on the  
group user model.

3. The information retrieval method according to claim 2,  
comprising the steps of

storing said group user model, and reading out it in  
accordance with the request from a user to retrieve said  
information.

4. The information retrieval method according to claim 2,  
wherein

a method of forming said group user model is a maximum value mode for selecting the maximum value of said plurality of specific user models.

5. The information retrieval method according to claim 2,  
wherein

a method of forming said group user model is a minimum value mode for selecting the minimum value of said plurality of specific user models.

6. The information retrieval method according to claim 2,  
wherein

a method of forming said group user model is an average value mode for selecting the average value of said plurality of specific user models.

7. An information retrieval apparatus, comprising:

storing means for storing the general user selection taste data consisting of classification items and information contents on the basis of the general user group classified according to an user attribute and/or the state of information utilization;

specific user model forming means for forming a specific

user's own specific user model based on said general user selection taste data read out from said storing means and the basic information selection taste data of said specific user; and registering means for registering said specific user model formed for each plural users so as to correspond to respective users; wherein,

the information suiting one or plural specific user model(s) is retrieved based on said one or plural specific user model(s) among said plurality of specific user models.

8. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said information retrieval apparatus comprises group user model forming means for forming a group user model on the basis of said plurality of specific user models registered by said registering means; and

said information is retrieved based on said group user model.

9. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

said information retrieval apparatus comprises group user model storing means for storing said group user model; and

said group user model is read out from said group user model storing means in accordance with the request from a user to retrieve said information.

10. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 8,  
wherein

said group user model forming means selects the maximum  
value of said plurality of specific user models to form a group  
user model.

11. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 8,  
wherein

said group user model forming means selects the minimum  
value of said plurality of specific user models to form a group  
user model.

12. The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 8,  
wherein

said group user model forming means selects the average  
value of said plurality of specific user models to form a group  
~~user models.~~

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